

CARBONDALE DAILY NEWS, Thursday, May 31, 1951 (Vol. 79, No. 104)

Miss Jones Covers Long History Of The First Presbyterian Church

Miss Eleanor P. Jones, dean of the Pennsylvania State Oral School, Scranton, and lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church, has written a comprehensive history of the First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale.

Excerpts from this history, which will appear in the dedication booklet, follows:

On June 27, 1829, the Rev. Joel Campbell appeared as a committee and organized a church to be known by the name of The Presbyterian Church of Carbondale. Upon the plot of land where the present newly completed church stands, at the corner of Church Street and Salem Avenue, was erected a small building with a steeple. This was used as a church, school house and general gathering place for public meetings.

Six years later the school house was moved to Terrace Street and a new church building erected facing Church Street. It was evidently not too impressive a building for the city map of 1851, when Carbondale was incorporated. It is not included in the group of churches. The cost was \$1,100. At that time the charter read that the name of the church would be the First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale.

The little school was later moved to 100 Spring Street where it is today owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Davis.

In 1865 a new church building with a beautifully proportioned spire was dedicated on the same plot of ground as the original church. In 1885 Dr. Charles Lee became the pastor and continued for over two score years. During his ministry the church was enlarged and remodeled and after 1894 the spire was removed and a belfry was built in its place.

In 1926 the Rev. Dr. S. Turner Foster became minister and in 1929 the Centennial Celebration of the organization of the church was held.

On Feb. 6, 1949, a call to become the new pastor was accepted by the Rev. Malcolm S. Sweet.

On July 15, 1949, the razing of the old church was begun. The new half-million dollar edifice was begun in September of 1949. The cornerstone ceremony was held Dec. 11, 1949. The dedication of the new church will take place Sunday.